

English Abstracts of Articles in the Present Volume of “Fortid og Nutid”

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Lene Andersen:

Good Luck. Notions of Luck in Legends and Folk Tales, Recorded by Evald Tang Christensen, the Folklorist, about 1870.

Fortid og Nutid, June 2008, page 83-106

Today, legends and tales are frequently regarded as imaginative and preponderantly untrue stories. The tales that ordinary people in the country told one another in the 19th Century should, however, be seen as far more than “good stories”. They may in fact provide an insight into the cultural standards, values and notions of people. The tales that were told in the parishes of Gjellerup and Sunds near Herning in Jutland, containe some very different explanations of why people encounter luck and bad luck than we do today. In the same way, the tales contain some very different notions of what luck is. The present article provides an insight into the outlook of the storytellers by examining their notion of the idea of happiness. At the same time it becomes clear that tales and legends can be useful sources in a historical study of popular standards and notions.

Vibeke Kaiser-Hansen:

Social Status and Status Changes among the Turkish Guest Workers Who Came to Randers in the Early 1970s.

Fortid og Nutid, June 2008, page 107-130

The Museum of Cultural History in Randers has for a number of years been carrying out research into the industrial history of the town, and in recent years the Museum has likewise intensified its work with the immigration history of the town. Inter alia, the Museum has documented the history of the first Turkish guest workers who

came to Randers and the history of their families. This has been done in two series of interviews, which were funded by the Cultural Heritage Administration and by the Museum Council of Aarhus County respectively. In 2003, B.A. Marie Andersen talked to 20 persons who represented 11 married couples with children from those families of guest workers that came to Randers before 1973. The other study – involving 17 children of guest workers – was carried out in 2005. Today, the children are grown up and range in age from their mid-twenties to their mid-forties – some born in Turkey, others in Randers. The present article is based on the results of these two studies. It presents a picture of how the migration from Turkey to Randers provided an opportunity for social mobility. One could rise in the social hierarchy and achieve a high social standing – both “at home” in Turkey and in the newly formed Turkish community in Randers. The interviews indicate that the struggle for a high position in the new community in Randers in some cases helped determine the upbringing of the children of the guest workers.